Thomas L. Evans letter to his parents from Ohio Volunteer Infantry 96th camp at mouth of the White River, Arkansas, January 1, 1865

Thomas L. Evans

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Camp 96th U.S. South White River Ark., Jan. 1st 1865

Dear Parents,

Here I am at home again with the "old 96th." I wrote you a few days ago stating that I intended going to Morgantown, I went and got mustered as Capt. of Co. C. as I expected. I was gone just a week and got back here last Friday. I had a very pleasant trip & spent my Christmas on the boat going down the river & had a good dinner only I had none of my friends along to help eat it, but that does not matter as long as they were having a good dinner somewhere else.

I believe I am the most comfortably situated I have been since I entered this
service. We have a little cabin with a little fireplace in it and a cheerful fire blazing in it which reminds one of early days on Whittier Creek. It's a good bed that is soldiers' bed good enough for a prince in one corner. A couple of chairs and a table on which are a plate of apples, the late papers and several good books, &c. Then the boys are all well and just as comfortably situated as I so I have nothing to mar my enjoyment of these luxuries.

By Co. now numbers above ninety, about eighty of which are present & all seem to have become quite reconciled to the new order of things occasioned by the consolidation of the Regt. They say 'ah! it is only for eight months and now drug & is transferred to Co. A.'

This is fine weather day & it has rained off pleasantly. We are having cool dry weather which just suits us. It is so much pleasanter than when it is wet & muggy.

I got the fifty dollars for that note I left with you. It was sent by Sergt. Smith who gave it to Dearer at Marysville for me. I should have mentioned it sooner but had not time when I wrote before. I enclose a letter which you enclose with the note & forward is directed. Write soon & often. With my warmest love to all the boys. Farewell. Good night. Thomas.
Camp 96th, O.V.I.
Mouth White River, Ark.
Jan. 1st, 1865.

Dear Parents:

Here I am at home again with the "old 96th".

I wrote you a few days ago stating that I intended to go to Morganza. I went and got mustered as Capt. of Co.C, as I expected I was gone just a week and got back here last Friday. I had a very pleasant trip and spent my Christmas on the boat going down the river and had a good dinner only I had none of my friends to help eat it but that does not matter as long as they were having a good dinner somewhere else.

I believe I am the most comfortably situated I have been since I entered the service. We have a little cabin with a little fireplace in it and a cheerful fire playing in it which reminds me of early days on Mill Creek. A good bed (that is a soldier's bed, good enough for a prince) in one corner, a couple of chairs and a table on which are a plate of apples, the late papers and several good books, etc. Then the boys are all well and just as comfortably situated as I so I have nothing to mar my enjoyment of these luxuries.

My Co. now numbers more ninety, above eighty of which are present and all seem to have become quite reconciled to the new order of things occasioned by the consolidation of the Regt. They say, "Oh, it's only for eight months anyhow."

Mug G. is transferred to Co. A.

This is New Years Day and it has passed off pleasantly. We are having cool, dry weather which just suits us, it is so much pleasanter than when it is wet and muddy.

I got the fifty dollars for that note I left with
you. It was sent by Sergt. Smith who gave it to Shearer at Marysville for me. I should have mentioned it sooner but had no time when I wrote before. I enclose a letter which you enclose with the note and forward and directed.

Write soon and often. With my warmest love to all and a kiss for Loue, Good Night.

Thomas.